

1. OVERVIEW OF THE SESSION

The session involved a group of young people with different backgrounds and level of political literacy. During the Political Talks participants shared their views on politics, government, and their role in society.

Some of the key highlights of the discussion were as follows:

- Participants discussed their initial encounters with politics, highlighting a mix of early family influences, academic exposure, and personal experiences with political events.
- When asked to define politics, responses ranged from seeing politics as self-interest and a "game" to viewing it as a science or a necessary means to achieve freedom.
- The group reflected on what makes a good or bad government, emphasizing transparency, responsiveness to people's needs, and a lack of corruption.
- Many participants expressed a desire for more engagement in political processes, noting a generational gap in understanding and involvement. They suggested the importance of introducing political education at an earlier stage (secondary education) and creating more accessible, interactive ways to learn about politics.
- The group also discussed how to improve political systems, including ideas such as decentralizing power and introducing mental health support in political processes.

In the closing segment, the participants were informed about the next steps in the project, including opportunities for further engagement in upcoming activities.

2. KEY INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Political Disillusionment: Many participants feel disconnected from politics, viewing it as driven by self-interest and not addressing the needs of younger generations.

Need for Youth Engagement and Education: There is a strong desire for better political education and involvement for youth, with suggestions for introducing political education at an earlier age.

Desire for Transparency and Accountability: A call for more transparency in government and for leaders to be held accountable, especially regarding corruption and decision-making.

Focus on Social and Environmental Issues: Participants highlighted the importance of addressing social equality, environmental sustainability, and the quality of life in political discourse and action.

3. THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Political System Reform: Participants proposed creating a more localized political system, where power is given to smaller, community-based governments (e.g., mayors), allowing for more tailored decision-making.

Improving Political Accessibility for Youth: To engage young people in politics, there's a suggestion to simplify political language and make voting more interactive and fun, addressing the generational gap in political understanding.

Enhancing Political Transparency: There is a strong emphasis on the need for transparency in government decisions, with calls for clearer communication and less media interference.

Prioritizing Social Issues: Participants urged political leaders to focus on critical social issues, like mental health, social equality, and the environment, in order to address pressing challenges that affect youth and society as a whole.

4. EXPLORATORY QUESTIONS

Lack of Political Prioritization for Youth: Many participants feel that political leaders do not prioritize the needs or concerns of their generation, resulting in a disconnect between youth and government policies.

Understanding Politics and Voting: There's a shared belief that it's important for people to understand how the government works and how decisions are made, which can empower individuals to challenge corruption and make informed decisions.

The Role of Media in Politics: Participants expressed concerns about the influence of fake or misleading political news, stressing the need for more reliable sources and better media literacy to help the public discern truth from misinformation.

Political Involvement and Change: Several participants emphasized the importance of political involvement, with many suggesting that more accessible and engaging ways to learn about politics—especially at a young age—could lead to more informed and active citizens.

5. BRAINSTORMING QUESTIONS

Reforming Political Systems: Some participants proposed creating a more localized system of governance, where smaller communities or local leaders (e.g., mayors) have more power, allowing for decisions that better reflect local needs.

Addressing Mental Health: There was a suggestion to prioritize mental health by making psychological counseling accessible to everyone, addressing the stigma around it, and recognizing its impact on societal and political engagement.

Making Politics Fun and Accessible: To engage young people, participants recommended making politics more interactive and relatable, including fun, educational activities that simplify complex issues and make political processes more appealing.

Leadership Accountability: A few participants emphasized the importance of holding leaders accountable, with ideas like making it illegal for those involved in corruption to hold power again, ensuring transparency and fairness in leadership.

6. CLOSING ACTIVITY

Participants were excited to be part of the project's upcoming activities and expressed their willingness to participate to further actions